Save Foggy Bottom...It's Where We Live!

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FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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Welcome Back!

After a hiatus of more than a year, the "new" Foggy Bottom News is back to serve the residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End. Here we will be publishing, in the new Foggy Bottom / West End Current, about a page and a half of neighborhood news and goings-on every week. Welcome Back!

The FBN had a run of 46 years after former editor (and neighborhood activist) Ellie Becker – having cranked out the paper every month for 18 years – retired as editor two years ago. Since then, there has been a hue and cry from the neighborhood for news affecting us, especially in a time of rapid change to Foggy Bottom / West End. We heard you!

There is no lack of issues facing our community early in the new century. Yes, we are concerned about George Washington University's creeping (and occasionally creepy) encroachment in our neighborhood.

After being tied up in court for years, the GW Campus Plan Order – upheld by a federal appeals court against GW's challenges – was finally certified on Sept. 16. We believe that the university is, in fact, in violation of the official campus plan agreed to by the city, community and university in 2000 which among other things sets a strict limit of 20,000 students enrolled. As recently as last month, the Washington Post reported that the university has over 24,000 students enrolled, a clear violation of the order.

The FBA wrote a letter to Mayor Williams in late October asking, simply, that the law be enforced and that GW should be held to its own plan, including commitments to enrollment, density and intensity-of-use limits. City officials tell us they are looking into the matter.

With the ink barely dry on its Campus Plan "contract" with our community and with a stinging rejection from the federal appeals court, GW is already knocking on city doors to break that contract. Our position is that GW should be using the space within its official boundary for campus housing and classrooms as it committed to, and not use the site for commercial office and high-end residential development that has nothing to do with its educational mission.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A approved a resolution Nov. 16 opposing commercial development on Square 54. In concert with the FBA's position, it also calls for GW to come into compliance with its Campus Plan contract. [See related story.]

But Square 54 and GW are far from the only issues confronting our neighborhood. The city's Department of Transportation, a.k.a. DDOT, commissioned a study to "deconstruct" the Whitehurst Freeway. (In 21st Century newspeak, that means tear it down.) On its surface, this seems like a dubious proposal, since the freeway keeps thousands of cars a day off neighborhood streets, primarily in Georgetown but affecting our neighborhood as well.

There are myriad traffic and development issues in both Foggy Bottom and the West End that affect our everyday life, from Juarez Circle to the new Columbia Condominiums at the old Columbia Hospital for Women site, which the FBA supported. Largely through our efforts, neighborhood residents will all soon be able to enjoy Trader Joe's coming to the neighborhood. The FBA also made possible a very successful Foggy Bottom Farmer's Market this fall.

The new FBN also includes part of the back of this page, so please turn it over. And welcome back!

ANC-2A Votes Against GW's Proposed Plans for Square 54

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A commissioners, who represent Foggy Bottom and the West End, voted 4-1 at the ANC's Nov. 16 meeting to oppose George Washington University's proposed plans for commercial development of Square 54, the university's former hospital site.

Voting for the resolution with Commissioner Richard Price (2A02), who introduced the measure, were ANC Chairman Vincent Micone (2A06) and Commissioners Dorothy Miller (2A05) and Anne Savage (2A03). Commissioner James Morris (2A04) voted against it.

Having lost its challenges to the Campus Plan process at the federal appeals court level, GW is now asking for changes to the commitments it made to our community in its 2000-2009 Campus Plan which allow it to operate in our residential neighborhood.

GW recently announced it plans to file three separate applications with the D.C. Zoning Commission – none of which were included in any of the Campus Plan hearings of 1999-2001 or its now-approved Campus Plan. This includes a huge planned unit development (PUD) project at the hospital site for office space and high-end residential apartments, rather than classrooms and student housing as the city's Board of Zoning Adjustment recommended and as GW is required to produce.

The ANC objected to the proposed plans partly based on evidence that GW has not been in compliance with a number of provisions in the Campus Plan. According to its filings with the Internal Revenue Service, GW's enrollment is above the total headcount of 20,000, the limit set in its Campus Plan.

In addition, GW's announced plans to include at least an additional 2 million square feet of dense development in other parts of its campus greatly exceed the density caps in the Campus Plan and "render the Campus Plan process meaningless," the ANC resolution stated.

The resolution also pointed out that the new hospital – as well as numerous other GW projects – was allowed to proceed without an environmental impact statement. The director of the city's Department of Health said at the time, "But there is essentially no remaining air resource margin in the 23rd Street corridor just south of Washington Circle. This area will experience peak CO (carbon monoxide) concentrations that are just below the applicable health standard."

The resolution also stated that:

• ANC-2A opposes any consideration of further development of the GW campus until GW comes into compliance – through an independent audit – with its student headcount limits;

• Should GW come into compliance with its campus plan, ANC-2A opposes any further development of the GW campus, without consideration of the following:

1.) A full Environmental Impact Statement of any future development, including Square 54, of its campus;
2.) No further use of the PUD zoning tool – an inappropriate and unneeded tool for Campus Plan development – within the Campus Plan boundaries;
3.) No further development of GW's campus beyond its remaining 550,000 square feet of developable rights contained in the 2000-2009 Campus Plan and no increase in the FAR (floor area ratio); and
4.) Development of academic and residential facilities only within GW's remaining 550,000 square feet of developable rights.

'Tis the Season – To Decorate!

Get those decorations up before Dec. 18 – it's time for the Foggy Bottom Association's HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST!

Decorate your door, your door knob, your window, your entire house – even decorate your pet! Join the fun, decorate however and whatever you want!

A panel of judges will canvas the Historic District and winners in the categories below will win prizes shortly afterward:

* Best Entry Doorway
* Best Windown Treatment
* Most Colorful
* Most Creative
* Most Understated Elegance

Let's make Foggy Bottom a Holiday Showcase!

SAVE THE DATES!

2006 FBA General Membership Meetings:

January 30	May 22
February 27	June 26 –
March 27	Annual meeting
April 24	*Speakers TBA*

All meetings at Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; subject to change.

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS
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The Foggy Bottom News is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the FBN reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:
PRESIDENT – Joy Howell
VICE PRESIDENT – Barbara Spillinger
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius
TREASURER – Russsell Conlan

FBA Board of Directors:
Ellie Becker, Joseph G. Chaplick, Elizabeth B. Elliott, Edward B. Gable Jr., Jacqueline G. Lemire, Michael G. Malloy, James R. O'Leary, Ronald Cocome (Immediate Past President; *Ex Officio*)

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➡ ➡ ➡ *Foggy Bottom News (continued from preceding page) December 14, 2005*

Use that FBA Membership Card!

Foggy Bottom Association members receive a variety of discounts from local area merchants simply by showing our membership card! Here's a list – and stay tuned for our "Preferred Merchants Program," coming in 2006! The membership card aso allows FBA members use of GWís Gelman Library.

FBA MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Blackie's Restaurant
1217 22nd Street NW
Tel: 333-1100 • Fax: 331-7850
50% discount on any wines offered by the glass; valid only with dinner

Chateau Florist
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Tel: 293-9005
10% off any arrangement of at least $25

Danny Diaz, Ltd. (Men's Clothing)
522 23rd Street NW
Tel: 296-2767
20% off merchandise; 10% off men's and women's alterations

Elenco Salon
504 23rd Street NW
Tel: 293-3006
$5 discount on any hair service

Expressions (Fine Clothing)
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Tel: 775-9299
15% discount

Grillfish Restaurant
1200 New Hampshire Avenue
Tel: 331-7310 • Fax: 331-3751
10% off food purchases (does not apply to alcohol)

Marshall's Bar & Grille
2524 L Street NW
Tel: 333-1155 • Fax: 333-4664
10% off: does not apply to any other discounts

Metropolitan Optical
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Tel: 659-6555 • Fax: 659-2134
15% off any eyewear purchase; not applicable with other offers or on contact lenses

New Hampshire Valet
600 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Tel: 342-5700
10% off dry cleaning, laundry, shoe repair

One Fish Two Fish
2423 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Tel: 882-0977
10% off total meal bill for dine-in and carry-out only; not available on delivery orders

Primi Piatti
2013 I Street NW
Tel: 223-3600 • Fax: 296-3725
10% off check.

ProEuro Hair Design
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Tel: 887-9191
10% off haircut and style; 20% off color highlights or perm

600 Restaurant at the Watergate
600 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Tel: 337-5890 • Fax: 337-5895
10% discount after 8:00 p.m. (does not apply to bar service or alcohol).

Sizzling Express Columbia Plaza
538 23rd Street NW
Tel: 659-1234 • Fax: 659-2800
10% off hot foods, salads, sandwiches and fountain sodas (does not apply to sushi)

Thai Coast Restaurant
2514 L Street NW
Tel: 333-2460 • Fax: 333-2462
10% discount on food in restaurant (does not apply to alcohol)

Watch & Band Clinic
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Tel: 785-4552 • Fax: 785-4552
15% off leather watch bands.

Watergate Gallery & Frame Design
2552 Virginia Avenue NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 338-4488 • Fax: 338-4451
10% off custom framing

Watergate Photo & Copy
2560 Virginia Avenue NW
Tel: 333-7700 • Fax: 333-3083
10% discount

Watergate Valet
2546 Virginia Avenue NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 337-7570
10% discount on dry cleaning and laundry

Watergate Wine and Beverage
2544 Virginia Avenue NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 333-0636 • Fax: 965-2416
Wine: 10% off per case • Liquor or Water: 5% off per case

Williams The Tailor
825 21st Street NW
Tel: 822-8000
10% off general alteration and repair

The Wine Specialist
2115 M Street NW
Tel: 833-0707 • Fax: 833-9507
10% off on all non-sale items (includes single bottle / cases of wine, liquor, beer, water, soda, etc.); not valid with other sales and promotions

Street Sweeping Dec. 20 – 21

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SIGNS *in the Foggy Bottom Historic District (below K St.) Dec. 20 and 21, as the city will be sweeping alternate sides of the streets those days, most likely in the morning hours. Full details were not available at press time but city officials promised to have signs up about a week in advance.*